



Coliseum Ready for Return of NFL Football to Los Angeles



While Commissioner Paul Tagliabue has said three sites are under consideration to be home to L.A.'s next NFL franchise, only the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (*above*) has laid the groundwork to make that actually happen.

"Actions speak louder than words," said Supervisor Don Knabe, President of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission. "And the actions that we have taken in recent months, most notably the certification of an environmental impact report (EIR) on renovating the Coliseum, speak volumes. What they say is we are ready, willing and able to play host to professional football again."

In December, the Coliseum Commission certified the EIR on the stadium renovation, the biggest and most concrete action taken over the last decade to return pro football to Los Angeles. The report studied the impact of transforming the Coliseum into a state-of-the-art stadium within the historic walls of the Exposition Park facility.

The conceptual design by Ron Turner and Dan Meis, the architects responsible for Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, reduces the

KNABE

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Employee of the Month: Probation Departments' Jack Sims

Jack Sims began his career with the Probation Department in 1989. In his current capacity as a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer at Camp Gonzales, his duties include supervising Deputy Probation Officers involved in investigating or supervising adults convicted of violations of law, and delinquent and non-delinquent children and juveniles.

After having worked in both juvenile hall and probation camps, Sims realized that through activities and challenges, young probationers would find the tools necessary to turn their lives around. For six years, Sims coached the Camp Kilpatrick football team, instilling belief in young people that, through teamwork, they could build a winning football team. The team has made it to the playoffs every year since Sims served as coach and has played in the finals several times.

EOM

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EVENT CALENDAR

Music Center

135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through March 7 - Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Through March 14 - Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*

Through March 13 - Richard Strauss' *Die Frau ohne Schatten*
(*The Woman Without a Shadow*)

Mark Taper Forum

Through March 28 - Topdog/Underdog

Walt Disney Concert Hall

151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

The Baroque Variations Series

March 11 - Bach Cello Suites - Pieter Wispelwey, cello

Chamber Music

Performances for the Chamber Music Series take place in Gindi Auditorium at the University of Judaism.

March 1 - Los Angeles Philharmonic - Bartok,
Dohnanyi, Beethoven

March 22 - Los Angeles Philharmonic - Shostakovich

Colburn Celebrity Series: Recitals

March 3 - Maxim Vengerov Recital - Brahms

March 29 - Goerne and Brendel - Schubert

Green Umbrella

Feb 29 - Golijov Chamber Opera - Golijov

March 8 - Steven Stucky: Composer's Choice - Mackey,
Stucky, Weir, Rouse

Inside / Outside: The Shape of Music in Los Angeles

March 24 - The Entertainment Capital of the World

Jazz Series

March 15 - Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra

Los Angeles Philharmonic

Feb 27-29 - Piazzolla, Golijov, Ginastera

March 4-7 - Slatkin / Chang - Sierra, Shostakovich,
Copland

March 12-14 - Salonen conducts Stucky Premiere -
Stravinsky, Bartok, Stucky

March 19-21 - Shostakovich "Leningrad"

March 25-27 - Matthias Goerne - Shostakovich, Mahler

Los Angeles Master Chorale – Call (800)787-5262

March 7 & 9 – Ellington Sacred Concert

Pillow Theatre – To delight children 3 to 6 years

March 6 – David Prather – "Poetry Jam"

Sounds About Town - Toyota Symphonies for Youth (TSFY)

March 14 - daKAH hip hop orchestra

March 20 - TSFY: Capturing the Air: Radio

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes,
please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036

(323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

Through March 30 – Images of Persuasion: Posters for the
Robert Gore Rifkind Center

Through April 4 – Erte/Opera & Ballets Russes/Dance

Through April 18 – Jasper Johns: Numbers

Through May 11 – The Ardabil Carpet: A Sixteenth-Century
Masterpiece Conserved

Through May 30 – The Posters of Robert Rauschenberg

Through July 5 – Salvation: Images of the Buddhist Deity of
Compassion

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles

(213) 763-3466

www.nhm.org

March 14 – Jan 2005 – L.A.: Light, Motion, Dreams

March 27 – Patron Family Scavenger's Safari – Beautiful Birds

April 10 – Tapestry Journal bookmaking workshop

County of Los Angeles 6th Annual Multicultural Conference

March 31 and April 1

Wilshire Grand Hotel & Centre

930 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90017

For more information, please contact Flora Rostamian at
frostami@co.la.ca.us or Mary Norman at (213) 738-9417 or
mnorman@dmh.co.la.ca.us



Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST*
may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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2003 Chair Leadership Award



Quality and Productivity Commission Chair Jaclyn Tilley Hill presented this year's "Chair Leadership Award" to Anthony Hernandez, Director, (*pictured above*) and Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner, (*below*) Department of the Coroner during the 17th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards program. These two dynamic executives have guided their department to the highest levels of success in service and workforce excellence, fiscal responsibility, and organizational effectiveness. The Department of the Coroner was also awarded the 2003 Silver Eagle Award for their, E-Commerce Blasts Coroner Marketing Into Future.



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Supervisor Burke Hosts Annual King Commemoration Ceremony

Despite a crisp morning chill, a standing room only crowd packed the Claude Hudson Auditorium at Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital for the County's 22nd annual King Celebration hosted by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

Judge Consuelo B. Marshall, (*pictured with Supervisor Burke*) Chief Judge of the U.S. Central District of California, received the 2004 Los Angeles County Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. In her acceptance speech, the petite jurist reminisced about the inspiration she received from the achievements of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and civil rights attorney Constance Baker Motley.



During the program, Supervisor Burke introduced former King Hospital patients, who told the audience about how treatment at the hospital had saved their lives or those of their children. Those testifying included two sons of former Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson, who survived a nearly fatal auto accident, and parents of very low birth weight infants. One patient recounted her experience with a spider bite on her leg that had led physicians at another hospital to recommend amputation. "I was told to go to King Hospital, that they would find out exactly what was wrong, they did and they saved my leg," she told the audience, lifting her skirt to her knees to show her legs. Supervisor Burke commented, "We've heard so many negative stories about King Hospital that I thought we needed some positive stories to balance things."

Also on the program were Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, Director of the Department of Health Services; David Runke, Interim Administrator at King Hospital; Dr. Harry Douglas, Executive Vice President of Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science, and Dr. Keith Norris, President of the King/Drew Professional Association. The incoming

BURKE

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FEBRUARY RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Patrick T. McMahon
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: George W. Hayward

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Linda Carswell

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Marilyn A. Rehberger, Linda S. Sessions, Douglas D. Stenmeyer, Elizabeth D. Stephens

COUNTY COUNSEL: Gabrielle Terry

FIRE: Glenn Mutch, Jose A. Puentes, Martin L. Scott, James D. Shepard, Joseph Taylor, Felix A. Teran

LACERA: Wayne Peterson

MENTAL HEALTH: Patricia A. Amesbury, Peter W. Chen, Jessie A. Tait

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: Richard W. Meier

PROBATION: Sarah M. Amos, Thomas M. Kiester, Jeannie Lampley, Chester L. Leonard, Will J. Manson, Peggy M. May, Willie J. Neusom, Robert L. Prince

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Roger M. Kapit, Douglas S. Love, Joyce M. Rohrs

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Richard G. Alvarez, Elmer Boudreaux, Diane Diem, Jo M. Eagans, Robert L. Gates, Mary E. Groshong, Viola Jones, Anita Moore, Marietta Patterson, Marva Y. Posey, Sunnett D. Rainer, Eleanor C. Wilkerson

PUBLIC WORKS: Lillian Coniglio, Lawrence S. Harada
SHERIFF: Herlinda E. Bowns, Linda J. Holmes, Kenneth G. Johnson Jr., Richard A. Lemberger, Eleanor L. Morales, Charles Norris III, Catherine K. Oshita, Claudio C. Pinedo, Reginald Robinson, Victor L. Rodriguez, Michael E. Scott, Paul W. Springborn, Phillip Yaw

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ASSESSOR: Connoll K. Lee

FIRE: Michael I. Mathis, Joseph M. Montoya, James M. Rock

MENTAL HEALTH: Nelly C. Bertolina, Elaine J. Lomas

PROBATION: Delon M. Chetkovich

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gladys M. Eckenrode

PUBLIC WORKS: Willis Feagin

SHERIFF: Ralph D. Coundouris, Raymond A. Robledo

SUPERIOR COURT: Christine Banasiak

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Marla Leventhal, Jack L. Parrish

EOM

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Sims feels privileged and a great sense of pride from his role in the development of the Specialized Warrant Intervention Fugitive Team (SWIFT) Program and the Valinda Project through Supervisor Gloria Molina's office. These programs involved collaboration between the County, law enforcement and community-based agencies to aid probationers in accessing needed services to facilitate reform and positive change. The programs remain in place and are a model for interagency cooperation and accountability.



The honoree has also been involved in numerous other projects and programs many of which involved working with Probation, law enforcement and community-based agencies in various roles. "This exposure has given me a deep respect for our leadership and a heartfelt commitment to give all that I can to make a difference as a leader and member of such a great team of professionals," Sims said.

At Camp Gonzales, Sims has introduced unique methods of helping kids learn about responsibility and teamwork. He has instituted a camp store and movie nights where wards earn the ability to purchase rewards. His efforts have resulted in a significant reduction of incidents among probationers as they work collectively to earn the honor of attending movie night.

Privately, Sims volunteers at his church as a counselor. He is also a volunteer of Mayor James Hahn's Crisis Response Team providing immediate, short-term crisis intervention to individuals having been traumatized by death, serious injury or violent crime. "I enjoy activities that allow me to give of myself and hopefully encourage someone along the way," Sims said.

Sims received his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Hawaii. He returned to school while working full time and received his master's degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge.

Sims is grateful to his parents and family who provided him with the tools to succeed in life. He credits his parents for encouraging him to be the best in all his endeavors and never quit. "Even when life gives you lemons, you have to make lemonade and keep going," Sims said.

Congratulations, Jack Sims, for such exceptional achievements. You are truly a model of service excellence.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Attends Groundbreaking Ceremony in North Hollywood



MTA Board Chairman and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, *left*, joined other officials for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new \$43 million NoHo Tower project in North Hollywood. Located in the burgeoning NoHo Arts District at the corner of Lankershim Blvd. and Cumpston St. across the street from the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Subway station, the 15-story, 191-unit building will be the San Fernando Valley's tallest residential tower. The tower, sitting at the junction where the East-West Orange Line busway from Warner Center will connect to the Red Line subway downtown, will boast 17,000 sq. ft. of ground floor retail space. Proponents hope the project will help cement North Hollywood as a major new commercial core and transit center. Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky in the

front row, *from the left*, are Paul Hudson, Chairman of the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners; Councilmember Tom LaBonge, 4th District; Mayor James Hahn; and Craig D. Jones, President of Santa Monica-based JSM Construction, Inc., the project developer.

Supervisor Antonovich Sworn in as Lieutenant Colonel in Military Reserve

Flanked by military leaders, local law enforcement officials, federal judges and his family, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich was sworn-in as a Lieutenant Colonel in the California State Military Reserve (SMR) in a brief ceremony held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration on December 29, 2003.

Citing the critical need for better coordination between the California National Guard (CNG) and local and regional governments, the CNG Adjutant General, Major General Paul D. Monroe Jr., joined Mrs. Christine Antonovich in pinning the Lieutenant Colonel rank on Supervisor Antonovich's uniform.

"The California State Military Reserve has a long history of service to the people of California. I am proud to join their ranks," Supervisor Antonovich said.

Major General Monroe remarked, "Mr. Antonovich's vast experience in government and law enforcement, together with his association with the State legislature and Congress will be a great asset to the California National Guard and in turn the citizens of California."



Pictured from left to right: Major General Paul D. Monroe, California National Guard Adjutant General, Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Antonovich, Mary Christine Antonovich, Christine Antonovich, and Michael D. Antonovich, Jr.

ANTONOVICH
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Sheriff Baca Competes in the Lupus Race for Life



Sheriff Baca runs with the best at the start of the race.

and Custody Assistant Antoinette Bowen served as committee members and did an excellent job in organizing the event.

The \$25 entry fee entitled the participants to enjoy a pancake breakfast and refreshments and receive a bag and T-shirt. Trophies were awarded to the top finishers. For the second straight year, the Sheriff's Department won the award for having the largest number of participants among the participating agencies. The annual event raises money which directly funds services such as a hotline for support, information and research projects in the fight against Lupus. Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that has been diagnosed in more than 2.8 million people to date. The disease, which affects women nine times more often than men, has no cure and the current treatments carry with them severe side effects.

Sheriff Baca pledges both he and the Sheriff's Department will continue to support the Lupus International Organization cause. "As long as this terrible disease continues to go uncured, we will continue to raise money to combat it," Sheriff Baca said.

On October 19, 2003, the 4th Annual Lupus Race for Life took place at the La Mirada Regional Park in the city of La Mirada. The race was hosted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Supervisor Knabe, Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Riverside Police Department and the Long Beach Police Department. Sheriff Lee Baca once again participated in the race, continuing to show his enthusiasm for this worthwhile cause. He also committed Department resources in the form of logistics, personnel and advertisement to ensure its success. Sergeant Rock Pattullo, Deputy Ron Bottomley



From left to right: CHP Division Chief Skip Carter, Sheriff Lee Baca, Orange County Sheriff Mike Carona, Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, Connie Sziebel, and CHP Assistant Chief Mona Prieto

New "Walk for Health" Trail Dedicated

The "Walk for Health" Trail is a new two-mile, easily accessible trail within the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in Baldwin Hills. The trail provides a high-quality walking experience designed to encourage park visitors to improve their health through walking and developing a healthy lifestyle.

Colorful signs are located along the trail that highlight such concerns as proper breathing, hydration, proper eating habits, calorie control and heart rate. The unique signage links vital human health and exercise information with relevant facts about the Baldwin Hills natural environment, plants and animals.

The "Walk for Health" Trail is the outcome of Community Conservancy International's (CCI) "Parks for Health Initiative," funded by The California Endowment, to develop ways in which parks can be used to address the alarming rise in heart disease, obesity, diabetes and asthma, particularly in African-American and Latino communities. A collaboration by CCI with the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Health Services coordinated a year of research and input from a steering committee which identified

the Trail as the highest priority, park-based solution to reduce the health problems of at-risk communities.

In mid-November, a "Walk for Health" Trail Dedication and Health Fair took place, attended by 1,500 people. The Health Fair included free health screenings and informational booths advising of the benefits of exercise and good health practices.



The Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and the "Walk for Health" Trail are open from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. The park is located at 4100 South La Cienega Boulevard in Los Angeles. For further information about the trail or park, please contact the facility at (323)298-3660.

ANTONOVICH

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Recognizing that Homeland Defense issues are a critical concern of local government, newly commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Antonovich said, "I look forward to my assignment to bring together local, state and federal governmental agencies to secure additional resources for California's homeland defense programs."

Soldiers of the California State Military Reserve are sworn members of the California State Military Department and directly support the California National Guard. They play a vital role in contributing to California's Homeland Defense and the War on Terrorism. Lieutenant Colonel Antonovich will be assigned to the Office of the Adjutant General (OTAG) Support Group based in Sacramento, California.



Major General John Bianchi, Commander of the California State Military Reserve, Christine Antonovich, Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Antonovich and Major General Paul D. Monroe, California National Guard Adjutant General.

Hollywood Bowl Special Beam-Signing

Supervisor Yaroslavsky, *second from right*, joins colleagues for a special beam-signing and steel-topping ceremony to celebrate the completion of the steel frame for the brand new Hollywood Bowl shell, a larger and acoustically superior version of the venerable bandshell that concertgoers have enjoyed since 1929. Slated for completion in time for the Summer 2004 Bowl Summer Season, the replacement shell will be large enough to accommodate the full Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra. In addition, it will eliminate the unsightly clutter of steel lattice and fiberglass globes in the shell's interior in favor of a transparent pane that will better reflect the orchestra's sound down and project it out toward the audience. Accompanying Yaroslavsky, *from the left*, are former Third District Supervisor Ed Edelman; Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Deborah Borda, Los Angeles Philharmonic President; and Ernest Fleischmann, retired longtime Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the Philharmonic.



Tribute to Chick Hearn



MTA Board Chairman and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, *second from right*, pays tribute to the legendary Lakers announcer Chick Hearn at a special ceremony to rename the Metro Blue Line Station at Pico and Flower in honor of Hearn, who passed away in August 2002. Joining him for the tribute, *from the left*, are Hearn's widow, Marge; Mayor James Hahn; and Jeanie Buss, Lakers Executive Vice President for Business Operations.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

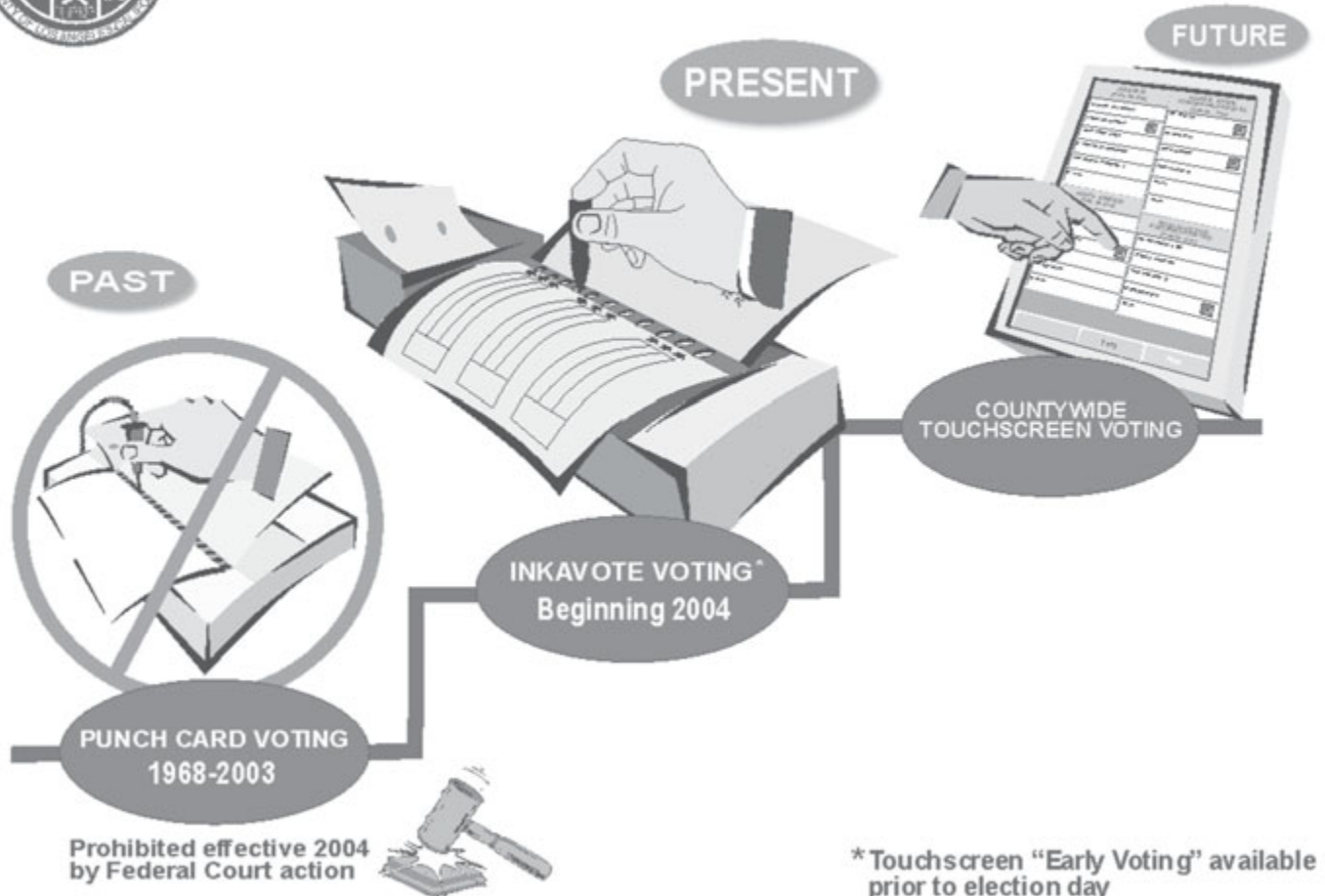
ENRICHING LIVES...

County of Los Angeles Unveils InkaVote for March Presidential Primary

Chad is just a memory.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY VOTING SYSTEMS





County of Los Angeles VISION

Our ***purpose*** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our ***philosophy*** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- ◆ responsiveness
- ◆ professionalism
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ compassion
- ◆ integrity
- ◆ commitment
- ◆ a can-do attitude
- ◆ respect for diversity

Our ***position*** as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- ◆ a capability to undertake programs that have public value
- ◆ an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation
- ◆ a pledge to always work to earn the public trust

On March 2, County of Los Angeles voters will select their presidential candidates with a new voting system, InkaVote, thus replacing 35 years of punch card voting.

InkaVote is an optical scan system that is similar to the punch card system. Instead of using a punch device to vote the ballot card, voters will use a marking device to fill in circles (with ink) and forget about “pregnant,” “dimpled” or otherwise “hanging” chad.

This change came about due to a Federal court action in 2002, which banned use of punch card voting, beginning with the March 2004 Presidential Primary Election. Conversion to a modern electronic Touchscreen Voting System Countywide is estimated to exceed a cost of \$100 million. Due to budget constraints, the County of Los Angeles selected InkaVote as an interim replacement voting system. When adequate funding is identified and available, the County will convert to electronic voting at the polls.

The convenience of Touchscreen Voting is still available to all voters at designated locations throughout the County before Election Day. Voters can find the dates, times, and locations printed in their sample ballot booklet.

Please visit our Web site at www.lavote.net to learn more about InkaVote and Touchscreen Voting Systems or call (562) 462-2843 to receive informational brochures.

See you at the polls!

Supervisor Molina Alerts Residents to Possible Library Closures

Special Parcel Tax for Cities Could Help Keep Library Doors Open

Supervisor Gloria Molina is alerting voters to possible library closures resulting from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to cover the State of California's \$26 billion budgetary shortfall with County property tax revenue. Under this scenario, the County of Los Angeles stands to lose \$289 million in the 2004-05 budget year. The County Public Library will face a loss of \$8 million of which \$5.5 million is from County general fund revenues and \$2.5 million is from the library's dedicated share of the property tax.

"Last year, the Board of Supervisors seriously contemplated Countywide library closures," Supervisor Molina explained. "To prevent this from happening, we allocated close to \$10 million total to keep library doors open. But this year, we're facing an even bigger financial dilemma due to Schwarzenegger's proposal and libraries once again may be on the chopping block."

To help mitigate the situation, Supervisor Molina and her colleagues approved a measure allowing cities served by the County Public Library the option of placing a parcel tax before their respective residents on the March 2004 primary ballot. The tax revenue varies from city to city depending on the number of parcels. However, each

city would get to spend whatever parcel tax revenue they accumulated exclusively on their own city's libraries including library programs, services and necessary repairs.

"Libraries in cities that refuse to place the parcel tax on their ballots will be first on our list of closures and reductions next year," Supervisor Molina added. "The County Public Library currently is preparing a closure plan for 2004-05 in case we need to take that route."

The following charts details which cities in the County of Los Angeles already pay the parcel tax, which cities will place the tax on their upcoming ballot, and which cities have opted not to do so. With the exception of Pico Rivera, each city's total anticipated revenue is calculated by multiplying total parcels times the Fiscal Year 2003-04 special tax rate of \$24.76. The parcel data is taken from the 2002 Los Angeles County Assessor's Annual Report. Pico Rivera is participating in a city special parcel tax for library service but will use a different tax structure, with a \$98 tax on residential parcels and varying levels on other properties.

For more information on this issue, call the County Public Library's Public Information Office at (562) 940-8415

MOLINA

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KNABE

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seating capacity of the Coliseum from 92,500 to 78,000 seats. The plan adds luxury suites, club level seating, new restrooms, concession stands and other modern fan amenities, while maintaining the integrity of the historic stadium by keeping the exterior of the building and Peristyle end intact.

The vote, which came after the design was embraced by Los Angeles city officials, the local historic preservation community and neighboring stakeholders such as

University of Southern California, means the construction work on renovating the Coliseum could begin some time this year. Estimates are the work will take 18 to 20 months to complete and cost approximately \$400 million.

It followed other steps the Coliseum Commission has taken over the last six months to make the stadium football-ready, including approving the framework of a lease to turn operations of the facility over to a third party and extending its ground lease with the State of California for 49 years.

"If the NFL wants to return to Los Angeles any time soon, there's only one place to play and that's the Coliseum," Supervisor Knabe said. "The Coliseum stands alone as the leading contender to be the new home of the NFL in L.A."

Opened in 1923, the Coliseum served as home of the Los Angeles Rams from 1946 to 1979 and the Los Angeles Raiders from 1982 to 1994. It has also been the site of two Olympic Games, two Super Bowls, a World Series and numerous college football games, concerts and religious conventions.

Supervisor Antonovich Sponsors Car Seat Fair & Calls for Increased Child Safety Education

To prevent injury to children, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich sponsored a car seat fair at the Department of Children and Family Services office in Santa Clarita.

One hundred car seats and 200 booster seats were distributed to foster parents at the fair, and representatives from the California Highway Patrol were on hand to give demonstrations on proper installation. California law requires that a child safety seat or booster seat be used on all children until they are at least 6 years old or weigh 60 pounds.

The safety seats were donated to Supervisor Antonovich's office by the Department of Health Services' Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Program, which were obtained with a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

In December, Supervisor Antonovich's motion directing County departments to implement an educational car seat safety program in the County of Los Angeles was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors.

"Every 90 seconds a child is killed or injured in a motor vehicle crash in the United States," Supervisor Antonovich said. "Education is the key to protecting our most vulnerable passengers in the event of an accident."

The Sheriff and the Departments of Health Services and Children and Family Services will jointly apply for funding of the safety program through the State Office of Traffic Safety.



Supervisor Antonovich works with volunteers and deputies at the Santa Clarita Car Seat Fair.

Team DCFS is in it for the Long Run: More than 60 DCFS Staff Train for the L.A. Marathon XIX to Benefit Children

On Sunday, March 7, more than 60 social workers, support staff and family members from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will take to the streets to run the Los Angeles Marathon XIX on behalf of the children they serve.

The task may seem daunting to some but social workers are used to marathons. Dealing with horrific child abuse, emotional families, demanding legal requirements and miles of paper work takes stamina, perseverance and an unwavering belief that their efforts will result in positive outcomes.

Abused children brought into the child welfare system likewise undergo a marathon journey often taking them away from home and all that is familiar for months, sometimes years. This arduous journey is frequently challenging to both child and social worker, an emotional rollercoaster with obstacles and frustrations at every turn. Trying to balance the safety and welfare of a terrified child with potential abuse and legal mandates is no easy task.

Team DCFS celebrates the ongoing effort of social workers, children and families who despite hardships, frequently accomplish everyday miracles: the rehabilitation of a drug addicted parent, a child's therapeutic recovery from horrific abuse and the ultimate goal of reunifying a child with his or her family when possible.

One of the unsung heroes running on behalf of her children and families is 26-year-old Jessica Ambroz, a Children's Social Worker who spent most of her childhood in foster homes when her mentally-ill mother could no longer care for her and her siblings. Her experience motivated her to pursue a Master's degree in Social Work at USC and help other kids deal with the emotional marathon that is foster care.

DCFS MARATHON
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**Cities Throughout L.A. County
Already Paying Special Parcel Tax**

City	# of Parcels	Est. Revenue
Cudahy	1,699	\$42,087.24
Culver City	13,356	\$330,694.56
Duarte	5,879	\$145,564.04
El Monte	17,084	\$422,999.84
La Cañada-Flintridge	7,620	\$188,671.20
Lakewood	23,861	\$590,798.36
Lomita	4,985	\$123,428.60
Lynwood	10,185	\$252,180.60
Maywood	3,319	\$82,178.44
Santa Clarita	46,555	\$1,152,701.80
Unincorporated Areas	306,808	\$7,596,566.08
West Hollywood	9,152	\$226,603.52
Total		\$11,154,474.28

**Cities Throughout L.A. County
Placing Special Tax on Upcoming Ballot**

City	# of Parcels	Est. Revenue
Avalon	1,666	\$41,250.16
Bell	4,246	\$105,130.96
Bradbury	405	\$10,027.80
Carson	23,742	\$587,851.92
Gardena	13,822	\$342,232.72
Huntington Park	7,415	\$183,595.40
La Puente	7,545	\$186,814.20
Montebello	12,677	\$313,882.52
Pico Rivera	n/a	\$2,586,000.00
San Fernando	5,030	\$124,542.80
South Gate	16,008	\$396,358.08
Walnut	8,704	\$215,511.04
Total		\$5,093,197.60

BURKE

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Medical Director of King Hospital, Dr. Roger Peek, was introduced, and told the audience he looked forward to taking up his position. Dr. Peek is former Medical Director of Alameda County Medical Center in the Northern California Bay Area.

The program included an invocation by Reverend Robert L. Mason of Macedonia Baptist Church, posting of colors by the Jordan High School Army Jr. R.O.T.C., and a benediction by Father Tracy O'Sullivan of St. Raphael Catholic Church. Musical selections were provided by pianist Alex Reichert and violinist Yvette Devereaux. The audience included County department heads or their representatives.



After the program, Supervisor Burke (*seventh from left*) took a photo with former King Hospital patients, including little Andretti Sanchez (*to her right*); Topsy Knox (*left*), whose leg was saved from amputation; Alfredo Perez (*third from left*), who survived a gunshot wound to the head after emergency neurosurgery; and Fabian Wesson, wife of Assemblyman Herb Wesson, and her son (*second and third from right*), who survived a nearly fatal car accident.

MOLINA

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**Cities Throughout L.A. County
Not Placing Special Tax on Upcoming Ballot**

City	# of Parcels	Est. Revenue
Agoura Hills	7,533	\$186,517.08
Artesia	3,958	\$98,000.08
Baldwin Park	14,611	\$361,768.36
Bell Gardens	4,123	\$102,085.48
Bellflower	13,049	\$323,093.24
Claremont	9,586	\$237,349.36
Compton	19,771	\$489,529.96
Diamond Bar	18,010	\$445,927.60
Hawaiian Gardens	2,562	\$63,435.12
Hawthorne	11,754	\$291,029.04
Hermosa Beach	6,803	\$168,442.28
Hidden Hills	707	\$17,505.32
La Habra Heights	2,155	\$53,357.80
La Mirada	13,883	\$343,743.08
La Verne	9,711	\$240,444.36
Lancaster	42,839	\$1,060,693.64
Lawndale	5,699	\$141,107.24
Malibu	6,765	\$167,501.40
Manhattan Beach	12,715	\$314,823.40
Norwalk	23,257	\$575,843.32
Paramount	9,115	\$225,687.40
Rosemead	10,500	\$259,980.00
San Dimas	10,670	\$264,189.20
San Gabriel	9,268	\$229,475.68
South El Monte	4,406	\$109,092.56
Temple City	9,821	\$243,167.96
West Covina	25,516	\$631,776.16
Westlake Village	3,611	\$89,408.36
Total		\$7,734,974.48

Supervisor Molina helps students from Hammel Elementary School shelve a new collection of children's books at the Anthony Quinn Library, which is located in unincorporated East Los Angeles, a region whose residents already pay the special parcel tax for libraries.



between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information on the City of Pico Rivera's special parcel tax structure, call the City of Pico Rivera at (562) 942-2000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

DCFS MARATHON

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"Foster kids need to see other foster kids become successful. I want to prove that foster kids can do anything, even run marathons," Ambroz said

Jose Zavala, a 34-year-old Child Protection Hotline Supervisor, finished the 1991 L.A. Marathon 36th place overall with a time of 2:38:20 and has a personal best marathon time of 2:28:50. Perhaps more impressive is his dedication to his DCFS clients including former foster child Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez, the first Green Card soldier killed in action in the war in Iraq. Zavala first met Gutierrez while working with the Runaway Adolescent Project (RAP). Over the next two years, Zavala worked with Gutierrez to learn English, excel as a student athlete and graduate with a "B" average. "I'm dedicating this marathon to the memory of Jose Gutierrez who demonstrated resiliency, unselfishness and made the ultimate sacrifice in representing our country," Zavala said.

Typical of the tenacious quality that marks many of the dedicated Team DCFS members is Ginger Lassy, a 61-year-old Adoptions Supervisor who completed her goal of running 25 marathons by her 60th birthday, including the Death Valley Marathon. "Being focused on a 26.2 mile marathon, having the perseverance to continue running when every part of you wants to quit, and knowing that the satisfaction one feels upon completing the course, makes it all worthwhile. This perseverance translates into the determined way we marathon runners face the myriad tasks attached to handling difficult caseloads. In turn, the children have social workers who model the commitment to complete a job which needs thought, planning, heart, flexibility and determination in the face of enormous odds. It's a good way to face one's life," Lassy said.

Team DCFS runners have already raised \$10,000, which will benefit the Children's Trust Fund. Established in 1968, the Trust Fund enriches the lives of abused and neglected children of the County of Los Angeles by providing beds, clothing, dental services, educational field trips, team sports, music

DCFS MARATHON

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Prepare To Do More in 2004 Against Terrorism Emergency Survival Program (ESP)

Terrorism is a word heard all too often in today's news. The County's Emergency Survival Program (ESP) 2004 public education campaign is designed to help you understand the threat of terrorism and to provide you with a sense of control. The easy monthly steps help you to take the "terror" out of terrorism by preparing in advance, just like you would for an earthquake, fire, flood or another disaster.

January - Understand the Threat
February - Make a Plan
March - Update Emergency Supplies
April - Bomb Threats
May - Biological Threats
June - Radiological Threats
July - Chemical Threats
August - Travel Safety
September - Shelter In Place or Evacuate
October - Community Resources
November - Public Environments
December - Mental Health

Year 2004 ESP calendars, posters, "Focus" information sheets and a special edition bulletin on terrorism "Terms You Should Know" are available. Reproducible masters are provided for easy use and distribution.

To obtain copies of the ESP campaign materials and other emergency preparedness information, contact Joyce Harris, ESP Program Manager in the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, at (213) 974-1166, or visit the ESP Web site at www.espfocus.org.

DCFS MARATHON

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and dance lessons, special summer camps, music instruments, prescription glasses and martial arts for the more than 40,000 children currently under the care of DCFS. These services, not covered by existing government funds, help children lead a more normal life.

The public is invited to support the ongoing work of social workers and DCFS staff on behalf of the abused and neglected children of the County of Los Angeles. To sponsor a Team DCFS member or make a direct contribution to the Children's Trust Fund please contact Michael Wrice at (213) 639-4821.

County of Los Angeles Cesar Chavez 2004 Community Events

March 20

Chavez Festivities

East Rancho Dominguez Park 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
15116 S. Atlantic Ave., Compton
(310) 603-3724

World City Family Series (Entrance FREE)

Disney Concert Hall, Music Center 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
W. M. Keck Children's Amphitheatre
111 So. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

March 20-31

Latin Art Exhibit (FREE on Friday the 26th)

Museum of Latin American Art 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach
(562) 437-1689

March 27

Chavez Festivities

Amelia Mayberry Park 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
13201 E. Meyer Rd., Whittier

Chavez Festivities

Lennox Park 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
10828 Condon Ave., Lennox

Chavez Softball Tournament

Belvedere Park 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
4914 Cesar Chavez Ave., Los Angeles

Chavez Walk & Festival

Olvera Street - 9 a.m. (Walk) 1 p.m. (Festival)
Downtown Los Angeles

Annual African American Mental Health Conference

Theme: Mind, Body, & Spirit: Best Practices in Providing Culturally Competent Mental Health Services to Persons of African Heritage

Thursday, February 26

Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel

5711 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 410-4000

The goal of this conference is to provide professionals and paraprofessionals with specific tools and knowledge to enhance therapeutic interventions and practices in the provision of mental health services to persons of African heritage.

Plenary speakers: Alvin Poussaint, M.D. and Thomas Parham, Ph.D.

Also, Bebe Moore Campbell, renowned writer and author of "Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry" will provide opening remarks to start the morning session. For more information, please contact Renee Woodruff at (323)298-3671 or Lonetta Richardson at (213)351-5347.

Third Annual Cesar Chavez Community Service Week

In tribute to the legacy and life of Cesar Chavez, the Board of Supervisors has proclaimed March 20-31, as the County's Third Annual Cesar Chavez Community Service Week. Cesar Chavez Program founder, Supervisor Gloria Molina said, "Cesar's example of service to others and social equality for all people provides the inspiration for the County's community service projects and free cultural festivities to all County residents."

This year, the County and the City of Long Beach will collaborate on Cesar Chavez cultural celebrations, including a special Latina artists exhibit hosted by the Museum of Latin American Art. "I am honored to join Supervisor Molina in declaring Cesar Chavez Week. I hope everyone takes this opportunity to learn about

Cesar and the difference he made in the lives of so many people," said Supervisor Don Knabe, Board Chairman.

County employees are invited to participate in community service volunteer opportunities at community centers, parks, libraries, probation camps, and at "Community Garden" and beach clean-up sites, as well as the Chavez Food Drive which provided more than 16,000 meals for needy families last year. For additional information or calendar of events updates, call (626) 312-2465.



Cesar Chavez Community Service Week 2004 Employee Volunteer Application

Sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, the Cesar Chavez 2004 Community Service Week Program encourages County employees to voluntarily participate. Employees who wish to volunteer a day of service must complete this form and indicate their date and project preferences **by March 5**.

Your Name (print): _____ Dept. _____

Work Address: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice:

Date: Mar. 22 ___ Mar. 23 ___ Mar. 24 ___ Mar. 25 ___ Mar. 26 ___ Mar. 29 ___ Mar. 30 ___

Project: Community Gardens ___ Library Project ___ Park/Beach Clean-Up ___
Food Shelter Project ___ Tree Planting ___ Youth Tutoring ___

With my department's (representative) approval, I agree to volunteer a day of community service during Cesar Chavez Week. I understand that volunteering should not adversely impact the delivery of service to County clients.

Signature _____

Date _____

Return to:
by MARCH 5

Cesar Chavez 2004 Program
3400 Aerojet Avenue, Suite 240, El Monte, CA 91731
Fax form to (626) 448-1573 or call (626) 312-2465



Share It

Department of Consumer Affairs

Information Sheet on Health Studios (Gyms)

Now that you've made that weighty decision to shed those extra pounds, these tips will help you find and join the best gym for you, and protect the financial investment you are about to make in your good health.

FINDING THE RIGHT GYM:

- Comparison shop to find out the services and prices offered by different places. Ask for free passes so you can try the facilities without obligation.
- Visit the gym you decide to join on the days and hours you would be using it to learn how crowded it is. Ask the gym if they limit the number of their members. If they don't, the gym may become overcrowded in the future.
- Look to see if the place is clean and well maintained, and if it has the equipment, facilities or classes you want.
- Find out how long the club has been in business. Check with your local consumer protection agency and Better Business Bureau to see if they have received complaints against the gym.

SIGNING THE CONTRACT:

- When you decide to join a gym, you should get a copy of the contract, take it home and read it carefully before you sign it.
- If you are offered a "special deal," make sure that everything you are promised is written in the contract. Don't sign a contract that has blank spaces and always get a copy.
- The contract cannot be for more than 3 years or \$1000.
- Avoid permitting the gym to deduct automatic payments from your bank account or credit card. You may have trouble stopping the deductions after you cancel your membership or if the gym goes out of business.
- Consider joining the gym on a month-to-month basis. The membership may be a bit higher, but you'll be able to find out if the gym meets your expectations or if you will really use the facilities on a continuing basis.
- If you join a gym that has not yet opened, the gym must open within 6 months. Pay the smallest deposit possible, since you may lose it if the gym fails to open as promised.

WHEN CAN I CANCEL MY CONTRACT?

- You may cancel the contract for any reason within 3 days from the date you sign it, not counting Sundays or holidays. The contract must have a cancellation notice telling you this. If you cancel, the gym must give you a refund within 10 business days, but they may deduct money for services you used.
- The contract must also state that you are not required to keep paying for services if you become disabled, die, or move more than 25 miles away from the gym and the gym is unable to transfer you to a comparable facility. If you paid the full balance upfront, the gym has to give you a refund for any unused services.

If you need help resolving a dispute with a gym, please call the Department of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-593-8222.



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